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Bauxite Deposits On Trauhira Island

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On file with CIA is a report giving a short account of the bauxite deposits of the Island of Trauhira, off the coast of the State of Maranhao, Brazil.

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THE STATE OF MARANHÃOMINERAL DEPOSITSBAUXITEA SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE BAUXITE DEPOSITS OF THE  
ISLAND OF TRAUHIRA - OFF THE COAST OF THE STATE  
OF MARANHÃO - BRAZIL

Off the North-East coast of the State of Maranhão, between the city of São Luiz and the river Gurupi, which forms the border between the State of Maranhão and the State of Pará, are several islands which are believed to be rich in Aluminum ore. One of these is TRAUHIRA ISLAND.

Trauhira Island is located at the mouth of the river Maracassume, off the coast of the State of Maranhão, about 75 miles West-North West of the city of São Luiz, capital of the State. It is a very small island, measuring only about three quarters of a mile long and about half a mile wide. Yet, it is believed to contain about One Hundred Million tons of rock rich in ALUMINUM PHOSPHATE. Whether or not this is correct is not for the writer to question as the purpose of this paper is but to report on the island and the history of investigations made by individuals and companies, Brazilian and foreign, with a view to the development of these supposed mineral deposits.

The geographical location of this island is approximately about 1 40' 46" South Latitude and Longitude 45 26' 30" West of Greenwich. It is visible at sea for several miles and one very striking feature is that it rises fairly straight out of the water to a height of over 100 feet with a fairly uniform flatness. No other island of the coastline between São Luiz and the mouth of the Amazon shows such a peculiarity.

The writer has sometimes thought that "Trauhira Island" is not an island but rather a peninsular, as at certain seasons it is linked to the mainland with only shallow water at low tide covering the mangrove swamps between Trauhira and the continent.

There are no rivers on Trauhira. And there are few humans. Fauna is represented by raiding bands of monkeys and several species of lizards - from one of these the island got its name - and great flocks of birds which abound along the coast. Flora is almost entirely confined to *Rhizophora mangle* L., or red mangue, and the mangrove swamps surrounding the island act as a sea-defense to protect it from the tides which in this region often exceed eighteen feet. And, last but not least, mention should be made of the extensive sea shell (*Ostrea* sp.) deposits to be found at the southern end of the island.

As far as can be ascertained, the bauxite deposits of Trauhira Island were first noticed by Guilherme Linde (whose real name was Guilherme Von Gemde Krunlinde),

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